

Liew Ting Ting (14)
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George Santayana once mentioned that the family is one of nature's greatest masterpieces. Indeed, I believe that kinship is a force that keeps a person going, even in their darkest moments. At least, that is what my family has shown me.

A few years back, my mother contracted cancer. As much as the doctors reassured us that 'cancer is curable', the thought of the existence of a malignant tumor in my mother's body still frightened me as a young child.

I never really appreciated my mother before that. She could probably be termed as a 'Tiger Mother' - one of those parents who expected their child to be number one in everything. Yet, the sudden news still hit me like a tight slap on my face. It dawned on me that without my Tiger Mother, I would never have been able to excel in my work, or be where I am right now.

The treatments took a toll on her body and soon enough, she was barely able to move. She was no longer the 'Tiger Mother' of the past. Instead, she seemed more like a prey now, a prey being devoured by the disease. Strangely, it was the first time in my life that I missed my 'Tiger Mother'.

It was a tough period of time, but through it all, I truly experienced the warmth and joy within a family. More often than not, we take our family members for granted. We never recognize the fact that friends come and go, but only family members will be there for us as a consistent source of comfort.

In the Bible, there is a parable of a lost son, talking about a man who took his elderly father's assets, and squandered his wealth in luxurious living. After he spent everything, he ended up having to stay in the same sty as pigs, and this finally made him come to his senses. So, he went back to his father. When his father saw him, he ran to his son and threw his arms around him. No matter what heinous crime one has committed, the family members are always ready to welcome him with open arms. Family is like a back-up army; always ready to back you up when you fall. Family is like a safe harbor where you can seek refuge. And only when a family learns to appreciate and support one another can they become a garden blooming with beautiful flowers.